

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2621

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: CONCORDE

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE APPEARING IN LE FIGARO, AUG. 29, UNDER THE TITLE "CONCORDE: TARIFF WAR - FRENCH GOVERNMENT REMAINS FIRM ON ITS POSITION".

"IT IS KNOWN THAT THE QUESTION OF TARIFFS APPLICABLE TO CONCORDE DIVIDES IATA MEMBERS. THE AMERICAN AIRLINES WISH THAT THE COST OF THE FARE BE 40 HIGHER THAN CURRENT FIRST CLASS TARIFFS. AIR FRANCE AND BRITISH AIRWAYS, ON THE OTHER HAND, WISH THAT THIS INCREASE BE KEPT AT 20.

BEFORE THIS INTRANSIGENT ATTITUDE OF MAINLY THE AMERICAN COMPANIES, BUT ALSO PREVALENT WITH THE CARRIERS THAT DID NOT ORDER THE SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT, THE GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY HAS DECIDED TO TOUGHEN ITS POSITION. INTERVIEWED ON EUROPE 1 (RADIO), MR. CAVAILLE, STATE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORT, HAS DECLARED "FRANCE IS READY TO INTERVENE SO THAT THE TARIFFS ARE NOT TOO MUCH HIGHER THAN THOSE OF FIRST CLASS". IT IS RUMORED THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT OPPOSE AIR FRANCE'S WITH-

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DRAWAL FROM IATA.

DURING THE INTERVIEW, MR CAVAILLE ALSO MENTIONED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MEDIUM-RANGE CIVIL AIRCRAFT JOINTLY WITH EUROPEAN FIRMS AND EVEN WITH "CERTAIN AMERICAN BUILDERS." THIS AIRCRAFT WOULD BENEFIT FROM A VAST MARKET SINCE IT WOULD BE DESTINED TO REPLACE 2000 MEDIUM RANGE AIRCRAFT (AMONG WHICH THE CARVALLES) TOO COSTLY ON FUEL. THE FRENCH PROJECT WHICH, ACCORDING TO CAVAILLE, "WOULD NOT BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH OTHER EUROPEAN PROJECTS" WOULD AIM AT SAVING THE FUTURE OF THE FRENCH AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY. MR. CAVAILLE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "THE FRENCH COULD ONLY WORK AS COPARTNERS, BUT NOT AS SUBCONTRACTORS"

2. THE ABOVE MAY BE OF INTEREST TO DOT IN VIEW OF CAVAILLE'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE U.S. FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH DOT OFFICIALS AND VISITS TO MAJOR AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES ON THE WEST COAST.
GAMMON

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